

REMARKS

The Examiner has required a species election in each of four groupings. More specifically, the Examiner states that the claims are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species of (A) various reactants; (B) various band elements; (C) various reaction facilitators; and (D) various manners of making the band element, if applicable.

Accordingly, Applicant makes the following elections.

(A) Reactants – Applicant elects the combination of diene monomer and vinyl-substituted aromatic monomer. Claims 2-11, 14-15, 17, and 19-23 read upon this elected species.

(B) Band Elements – Applicant elects the multi-layered composite. Claims 2-11, 14-15, 17, and 19-23 read upon this elected species.

(C) Reaction Facilitators – Applicant elects anionic polymerization initiators. Claims 2-11, 14-15, 17, and 19-23 read upon this elected species.

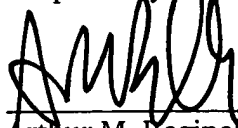
(D) Method of making band element – Applicant elects homogeneous filament winding. Claims 2-11, 14-15, 17, and 19-23 read upon this elected species.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner care to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

No fee is believed due with the filing of this response. However, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0925.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 8, 2006